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TOP SECRET [redacted] 3.5(c)

CO NID 80-235JX
[redacted]
6 October 1980

3.5(c)

DAILY INTELLIGENCE CABLE 6 October 1980

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ARGENTINA: Viola Named Next President

Retired Army General Roberto Viola has been named by the ruling three-man military junta to replace Jorge Videla next spring as president of Argentina. [ ] 3.5(c)

Selection of the politically moderate, 56-year-old former Army commander had appeared a foregone conclusion until last week, when the junta suddenly announced a delay in naming its choice. [ ] 3.5(c)

3.3(b)(1)

[ ] He believes that the differences with the US over human rights, nuclear proliferation, the Soviet grain embargo, and Argentine support for the Bolivian coupists can be solved through negotiations. [ ] 3.5(c)

Viola will continue the process of national reorganization that began with the overthrow of civilian President Maria Estela Peron in March 1976. The Videla regime has made significant progress in restoring stability to the economy and has instituted a dialogue with prominent civilians that eventually will lead to the restoration of political parties. [ ] 3.5(c)

The President-designate, who will serve for three years, probably will be succeeded in turn by yet another retired military officer. The present leadership has carefully avoided setting a timetable for elections and a civilian president might not be elected before 1987. [ ] 3.5(c)

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